



LOCAL
Colleen
court
appears
PAGE 3



EASTER
Church
schedules
out
PAGE 3



SPORTS
Football
action
PAGE 8

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

March 25, 2021 | Vol. 43, No. 4 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Electric vehicle charging rate passes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council has finally approved a rate for electric vehicle charging stations located throughout town. The council voted 9-1 in favor of an amendment to the original proposal and then voted the same way to approve the first reading.

The vote took place at the last council meeting on Monday, March 15.

Councilor Anthony Suffriti, who chairs the Legislative Subcommittee, said there was a lengthy discussion prior to the council meeting, a discussion that included Mayor William Sapelli, the city solicitor, and Planning Director Mark Strange.

In the meeting, the mayor recommended going down to 60 cents from the original \$1 per kilowatt hour proposal.

The committee voted 3-1 to recommend the proposal, knowing it would be amended on the council floor, Suffriti said.

At that point, Councilor Rosemary Sandlin motioned to amend the cost to 60 cents per kilowatt hour. Sandlin said the charging stations will collect data and the town

ELECTRIC | page 2



There are seven charging stations for electric vehicles throughout town, but only about three dozen electric vehicles actually registered in the community. The city council recently passed the first reading of a charge of 60 cents per kilowatt hour to use the stations. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Council renews agreement for water facility maintenance

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council voted unanimously to support the renewal and a potential extended agreement with the contractor who maintains its wastewater and water pump station facilities.

The agreement was approved at the city council's meeting last Monday night, March 15.

The facilities are operated using funds from user fees in the water and sewer budgets. Both are stand-alone enterprise funds of the town.

Councilor George Bitzas said

the Community Relations Committee met on the issue prior to the meeting and voted unanimously to support the agreement.

The original agreement for the maintenance of the town's pump station facilities was signed in 2016 by then Mayor Richard Cohen. The original contract was approved by an executive order issued by Cohen, but also endorsed by retire DPW Superintendent Christopher Golba. The contract was for a five-year period and was set to expire at the end of June of this year.

Deputy Department of Public Works Superintendent John Decker came forward with a dif-

ferent option this time, a new five-year agreement with contractor Suez Water Environmental Services but with an option to extend the agreement for five more years to make it a 10-year agreement. Decker said the option could save the town money in the long term, or at least give the town the ability to anticipate the cost.

"A few ways this would be beneficial to the town is it would provide us a stable cost for a longer period of time," Decker said in an email to the law department. "It would enable our contract operator to take on longer term projects at our direction, and pro-

WATER | page 2

Agawam extends outdoor dining permits

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli recently announced a temporary extension of outdoor dining for this year, as an initiative to assist businesses and establishments in the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sapelli said he made this decision to help businesses not able to open at full capacity. While more businesses are able to let people indoors, there are still many restrictions and guidelines that limit the amount of people allowed inside establishments. Patrons are required to wear masks and stay six feet apart. This makes outdoor dining a help for the capacity limit for some businesses.

"We're assisting businesses in this time of need, it's been nice collaboration with the city council who also helped to extend the outdoor dining," Sapelli said. "We've extended it another season and I know business owners appreciate it. I think it was extremely helpful and able to help out businesses."

Outdoor dining was successful last year during the pandemic as it allowed many establishments to stay open when they would have had to close.

Residents expressed praise and enjoyment for being able to eat and spend time outside in fresh air, including Sapelli himself. He mentioned the outdoor dining being a win-win for both residents and business owners.

The town is trying to help alleviate some of the issues establishments are facing with the pandemic, including waiving liquor license fees for this year in January.

Though Sapelli says not all restaurants will be able to host outdoor dining. There will still be restrictions and guidelines in place for those wanting to hold outdoor dining, as it needs to stay as a safe alternative.

Sapelli says outdoor dining may be able to continue in the future after the pandemic, though he would have to work with the

DINING | page 2

Football returns



The Agawam High School football team returned to action last Friday with a loss against Longmeadow. More photos are on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



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IN THIS ISSUE

Opinion	4
Obituaries	6
Crossword	6
Sports	8
Classifieds	10
Public Notices ..	11

12 PAGES

Lions Club offering scholarship

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club and Attorney David Ladizki are proud to announce the establishment of two memorial scholarships administered by the Agawam Lions Club Scholarship Committee. These scholarships for graduating Agawam High School seniors will honor local residents and Lions club members David and Beverly Malone Ladizki and Albert and Francis Malone.

The total amount of each scholarship is \$1,000.00 all of which will be funded by Attorney Ladizki's generous donation to our community. Applications are available thru the High School Guidance Office.

DINING ■ from page 1

City Council to create or amend ordinances for businesses to comply with.

The building inspector and other town officials will visit establishments to check if a business is able to safely hold an outdoor dining area. There needs to be ample amount of space for those parking to eat indoors and outdoors, as the outdoor dining areas take up space within business's parking lots. If the parking lot is too small to hold an outdoor space, that business will not be permitted to set one up.

"I know the community and businesses are looking forward to getting out as the weather improves, and businesses are excited to offer outdoor dining," Sapelli said. "We're looking to open the town hall on April 5 when the schools open as well, we know more people will be out."

With the start of Phase 4 this week, the city is planning on welcoming residents inside the town hall again.

People will not need to schedule appointments, but they will need to still wear masks and remain six feet apart as state guidance requires.

Sapelli does encourage residents to complete things online if it's easy to do so, like paying bills for example. Any payments that residents need to make they can use the

city website, mail it in, or use the drop box at town hall. He encourages people to only enter the town hall and meet with people in person if they absolutely have to, but he'd prefer all bills be paid another way since other ways are available. People no longer need to schedule an appointment to see someone at town hall, but they need to keep up social distancing inside. The town hall will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and asks that everyone follows the mandates inside.

Residents will have access to the town hall Apr. 5 and will have access to outdoor dining currently.

The temporary outdoor dining permit will last until Nov. 1 of this year, but Sapelli mentioned that more establishments may be able to continue outdoor dining in later years if the ordinance for it is adjusted. Residents should look out for outdoor dining areas and the opening of town halls doors soon. Any businesses looking to apply for the temporary outdoor dining permit can contact the Inspection Services Department at 413-786-0400 extension 8633 or at amandab@agawam.ma.us. For those businesses seeking to serve alcohol outdoors, they must contact the Liquor Commission at MMCarthy@agawam.ma.us

Democratic Committee seeking donations

AGAWAM – The Agawam Democratic Committee is seeking donations for upcoming events and fundraisers. The committee submitted the following letter:

Dear Friends:

What a challenging year this has been! So much loss -- loved ones, time together with family and friends, and time in the community with each other at social events that had to be cancelled. Out of an abundance of caution, the Agawam Democratic Committee has cancelled our annual breakfast, our biggest fundraiser for the year. The funds raised through the breakfast would have gone to improve outreach in the community i.e. to supporting local Democratic races and sponsoring scholarships for Agawam High School seniors. Instead, this year we are fundraising the old-fashioned way, reaching out one on one to ask for contributions.

So, on behalf of the Agawam Democratic Committee, we are inviting you to contribute to our 2021 Fundraising campaign

to support our yearly grant program and committee expenditures. Every year, we award a High School student a scholarship and who are entering college. We aim for candidates who are interested in political involvement and have demonstrated excellent skills within the community as well as his or her goal to work toward successes as transitioning to young adulthood.

As a token of our appreciation for your contribution, the committee will mail you the following:

\$15.00 donation= Pocket Constitution

\$25.00 donation = American Flag Pin

\$50.00 or more donation = Pocket Constitution and Pin

Please mail your check to:

Agawam Democratic Committee

P.O. Box 233

Feeding Hills, MA.

You may also donate to the Agawam Democratic Committee ActBlue at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/86114>

ELECTRIC ■ from page 1

can later determine how much use is coming from out of town.

Councilor Dino Mercadante said the idea was to make the price competitive. He said the subcommittee discussed.

"We have seven charging stations and we want to get use out of them," said Mercadante. "Bottom line is where is the happy medium? We want to encourage use of electric cars but we don't want the taxpayers subsidizing the cost. But right now, they are, they are subsidizing them at 100 percent.

"If you're going to grow this use, you can't price them out."

Councilor Paul Cavallo said he is against lowering the cost any further.

"I think it's fair," said Cavallo. "I don't want the town to have to encumber any more expenses."

Cavallo also said the town has to cover the cost if the charging stations break down or are vandalized or harmed in any way.

"The have some insurance," said Cavallo. "But not much. So that's a cost we don't know anything about."

Cavallo made the point that the town only has a few dozen electric cars in town right now. Therefore, he questioned whether the rest of the use would be coming from.

"My thought is to let it go for a year and monitor it (the use)," said Cavallo. "And

then see if Eversource will concede and lower our cost."

Councilor Gerry Smith said electric car users also get other rebates and benefits. He believes the town is offering a convenience with the charging stations and the users should be able to handle paying for it.

"If they are going to get perks with the cars, they should be willing to pay the associated costs," said Smith. "I was willing to go with the \$1, but the mayor went down to 60 cents."

Councilor Mario Tedeschi voted against the proposal at the subcommittee level. He believes the costs should lower, stating 300 percent above what people would pay at home is too much.

"We made a commitment to be a green community," said Tedeschi. "We should recoup some of our costs, but not all of them."

Tedeschi said he would have preferred a 25 cent per kilowatt hour rate. He was the lone dissenting vote on both the amendment and the overall proposal.

When the concept of charging was brought forward by the mayor, it was opposed by some in the community, believing the cost was too high. The proposal was tabled by the city council for a month before being taken off the table last week.

A second reading will take place at the next meeting on April 5.

WATER ■ from page 1

mote proactive operation of our facilities as it will be less costly than deferring maintenance over the long term."

City councilors on the Community Relations committee were supportive of the concept. Bitzas, when speaking on the council floor, liked the fact the contract could not be extended without city council approval, allowing the council to look at the contract again when it comes up for the option.

According to Massachusetts Gener-

al Law Chapter 30B, section 12, the town is allowed to enter into agreements with contractors for periods of less than 5 years. Contracts of 5 years or more require city council approval.

The proposal was sponsored by Mayor William Sapelli, who said in his resolution the contract length would be good for stability in the maintenance of wastewater and water pump stations. Jen Bonfiglio, the chief procurement officer for the town, worked to secure the agreement.

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Sat., March 13, 10 a.m.

Wed., March 24, 7 p.m.

Sat., March 27, 10 a.m.

Sat., April 3, 10 a.m.

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St. John’s Easter weekend mass schedule set

AGAWAM – St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam, announces the following schedule for Holy Week 2021:

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper: April 1, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: April 2, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil: April 3, 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 4, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (Extraordinary Form)

Social distancing and face coverings will be observed.

For more information about St. John the Evangelist Church, visit www.stjohnagawam.com, and subscribe to the YouTube channel (search St. John the Evangelist Church Agawam) for fun videos, informational videos, as well as daily and weekend livestream Masses.

Sacred Heart Church announces Holy Week schedule

Holy (Maundy) Thursday – April 1:

Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7 p.m. followed by the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose in the Chapel. Solemn Adoration will continue in the chapel until 9 p.m.

Good Friday – April 2:

Stations of the Cross at noon.

Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, Veneration of the Cross and the Distribution of Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday – April 3:

Blessing of the Easter Food and Children’s Easter Baskets at noon in front of the Parish Center.

The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 p.m. – This is the most important Mass of the entire Church year.

Easter Sunday – April 4:

(including the renewal of Baptismal Promises) at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Covid seating capacity and regulations are still in force.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John’s

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Valley Press Club scholarship applications being accepted

REGION – The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, Mass., will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper’s circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield, Mass. area, planning careers in journalism.

The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Mr. Jaffe, the Valley Press Club’s first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant’s high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com, high school guidance offices, or by emailing NTassinari@TheBigE.com Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to NTassinari@TheBigE.com. The deadline for submissions is April 15. Over the course of five decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$130,000 in scholarships to eligible students.

The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Colleens celebrate



The Agawam Colleen Court was recently on hand for a virtual parade held at the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield. The event was a drive-thru event to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Deadline nearing for Agawam Rotary Club scholarships

AGAWAM – The application deadline for the Agawam Rotary Club scholarships is April 1. Applications can be downloaded from www.agawamrotary.org and mailed to Agawam Rotary Club, PO Box 587, Agawam, MA 01001.

The Agawam Rotary Club is proud to offer the following scholarships:

Beverly M. Ladizki and David A. Ladizki scholarship for a graduating senior from Agawam who is planning to continue their education, and with intent to attend law school This includes students graduating from Pope Francis Preparatory school.

Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship is for a graduating senior from Agawam who will be attending or scheduled to attend an accredited academic or technical college in the month of September following graduation from high school.

Andrew Gallano Scholarship For The Arts is for a graduating senior from Agawam pursuing a career in the cultural arts, such as painting, music, and drama.

Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant for an Agawam resident, not necessarily a graduating high school senior, who is pursuing an education in a technical or vocational field, including but not limited to cosmetology, welding, culinary arts, and automotive technology. The scholarship may also be used for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in their trade.

Rotary is an international service organization whose principal motto is “Service Above Self.”

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS

◆ **La Cucina di Hampden House**
1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
413-566-8324
www.lacucinahampden.com
CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;
Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm
Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ **Route 20 Bar & Grille**
2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)
Wilbraham, MA
413-279-2020
www.route20barandgrille.com
CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;
Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ **Donovan's Irish Pub**
Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA
413-543-0791
www.donovanspub.com
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;
Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ **Venice Pizza & Grill**
2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops
Wilbraham, MA
413-540-8080
www.venicepizzagrill.com
OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm
Closed Monday

Opinion

HISTORY MATTERS

March 16 to March 31: American Revolution, OK and March Madness

After the Revolution, everything is A-OK

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith
Guest columnists

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is awarded to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

By March 22, 1765, the British, short on funds to absorb the costs of their military presence in the colonies, unloaded the Stamp Act on the overburdened citizenry. Already, they were anteing up for the sugar tax on imported goods, paying an assessment for paper money, and a quartering fee for the housing and food costs of the Redcoats.

The Stamp Tax levied a charge on everything from newspapers, and pamphlets, to playing cards, but that offense kicked off outrage and defiance. According to History.com, "They raised the issue of taxation without representation and formed societies throughout the colonies to rally against the British government and nobles who sought to exploit the colonies as a source of revenue and raw materials. By October of that year, nine of the 13 colonies sent representatives to the Stamp Act Congress, at which the colonists drafted the 'Declaration of Rights and Grievances,' a document that railed against the autocratic policies of the mercantilist British empire."

Although it was eventually rescinded, the public's pique unified the colonists, suffused them with nationalism, and, slowly, activated America's war of independence.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution," by Edmund S. Morgan and Helen M. Morgan.

Okay is created

Did you know that the United States does not have an official language? The Constitution does not specify one, nor is there a law which mandates the country to speak English; most Americans have accepted it as their "mother tongue," but adapting it in a very un-British way.

Take the distinctly American "okay," which started out as an abbreviation: "OK." It was common in the mid-19th century for younger, educated men and women to deliberately misspell words for amusement. For example, the slang for "all correct" became "oll korrekt" or OK, and was sopped up in the American lexicon when the editor of the March 23, 1839 edition of the Boston Morning Post, tagged it "OK" to denote that the copy was "all correct" or—"oll korrekt."

Other newspapers replicated the abbreviation; it diffused all over the world and morphed into "the most frequently spoken word on the planet."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "OK: The Improbable Story of America's Greatest Word," by Allan Metcalf.

March Madness

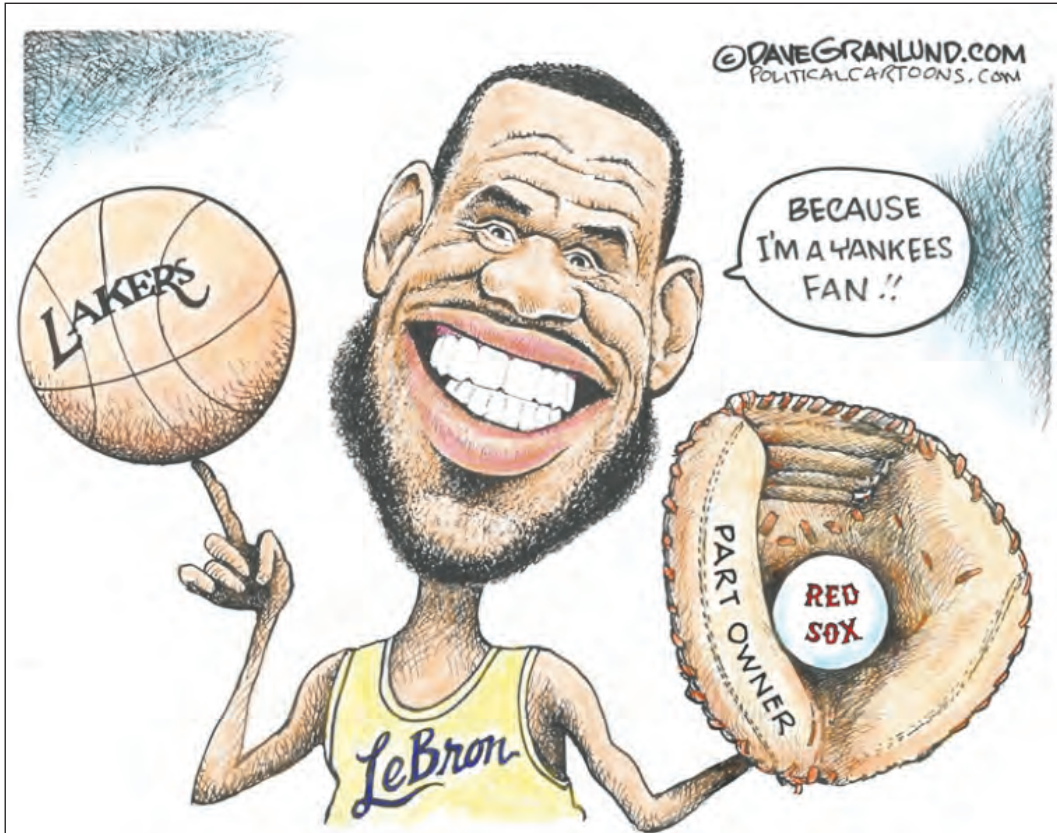
March Madness is overwhelming the nation. It has been that way since March 27, 1939, when the University of Oregon beat Ohio State University 46-33 in the final game of the very first NCAA men's basketball tournament.

If the Super Bowl causes the nation to stop and focus on football for one day, the annual NCAA basketball tournament holds the attention of the nation about three weeks. It starts mid-month when the "first four"—or first round games—are played, and last until the "final four" games culminate with the selection of the two teams that will compete in the championship.

In the beginning, eight schools were invited to participate; this year, 68 will face off in the men's competition.

The inaugural women's NCAA tournament of 1982 had representation from 32 schools; the 2021 line-up will be generated from 64.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "How March Became Madness: How the NCAA Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America," by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport.



Letter to the Editor

Three councilors sponsor voter ID resolution

Dear Editor:

I, along with Councilor Calabrese and Councilor Tedeshi have sponsored a resolution in support of voter identification, legal absentee ballots and opposing universal mail-in ballots for every registered voter. There is not one single word in this resolution that prevents any legal voter from participating in voting whether it be in-person or by using the traditional absentee mail-in ballot. If people are sick, disabled or are unavailable to vote for any reason, they must request, like always, and receive an absentee ballot by mail. It has been the legal process for all of our elections before the corona virus hit us.

Because of the virus the state changed the voting process temporarily to allow universal voting. The enactment of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 created an exception for only the 2020 elections that permitted all voters to be eligible to vote by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some politicians now want to change the state law and make it permanent for future elections.

There is on other country in the world that uses universal mail-in voting or has voting without identification. As Americans we are required to use photo identifications in airports, banks, pharmacies, travel, hotels, medical and Medicaid/Medicare applications, etc. Voter identification will bring trust

and truthfulness to every local, state and federal election. It is in the best interest of our democracy to have one person with one legal vote in a fair election without creating distrust, confusion, disunity and potential fraud. We must strive to protect the integrity of our voting process.

I am aware that many people may have different views on this issue and I respect that, but in a democracy we must have the freedom and courage to stand up and speak for what we believe is right.

Sincerely,
George Bitzas
Agawam City Councilor

Fun with houseplants

Just about a month ago I decided to re-pot a number of my "houseplants." I figured the timing was good, since before too long the plants would be responding to longer days with increased growth. They would relish new soil and more room for their roots to sprawl in the bigger pots I would provide. While I have never really felt that my outdoor "green thumb" has transferred to indoor plants, I've managed not to kill enough of them so that one morning of February vacation was spent with my hands in potting soil liberating them from a fate of being root bound in the same tired soil.

One of my favorite houseplants is the Gerber daisy. Most people think of this plant as a summer annual, and it technically is here in the northeast, but frugal Yankees (i.e. Mom and I) have been keeping them alive through the winter for years now. Its pretty pastel daisy-type flowers remind me of those the prankster clowns use to squirt water in the faces of unsuspecting folks. In our house we call it the "happy plant." I had three good-sized pots of them, all with tired soil. It showed by how yellow-green the leaves were. I moistened my compost-based Coast of Maine potting soil and proceeded to pry the plants apart, giving the divisions a fresh pot and a splash of liquid fertilizer once back on the windowsill. I am happy to say I now have one flower and a few others awaiting in the crown! Success!

Three other plants typically grown as annuals were saved from winter's chill and brought indoors as an experiment. One was a lobelia plant that grew in a ceramic pot by my front door all summer. Usually lobelias peter out during the dog days, but this newer variety kept right on blooming right through the heat. For the fun of it, I cut it back in late October and put it, pot and all in

my mud room. Lo and behold, it started to grow. I provided it with light, some fresh soil and said liquid fertilizer, and it is actually sporting a few blossoms right now. I am only hoping it will be happy indoors for several more weeks; thankfully lobelias are fairly cold hardy so I can probably get it outside earlier than most flowering plants.

Another annual I overwintered is heliotrope. Given to me as a gift last summer, its purple, vanilla-baby powder scented flowers provided a olfactory pick-me-up whenever needed. Admittedly, this plant struggled over the winter but with fresh soil and a brighter window it is thriving once more. The same goes for a coleus that I got from a my friend Jean a year and a half ago. I decided take cuttings of all three to increase my coffers and happily both the coleus and the lobelia have rooted. It's been tricky to keep the almost furry heliotrope leaves from wilting while awaiting roots. More research necessary there.

Late last spring I made a mixed planter with succulent type plants for my porch. I used what I had, including two tiny kalachoe plants rescued from where I don't recall. They looked so pathetic that I planted them almost in the same hole to make one decent-sized plant. But alas, in just three months of good soil and a warm porch they tripled in size and by February were full of aphids. After a soapy bath they were separated, each given their own pot. Now, one has flower buds! I have read that kalanchoes are easy to propagate. Simply take a cutting of terminal growth two to three inches long, stripping off all but the top 2 or 3 leaves. Allow the stem to callus and then insert into a free-draining type of potting soil, one comprised of peat moss and perlite is ideal. Begin

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



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\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

The *Agawam Advertiser News* (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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NHS hosting clothing exchange for kids

AGAWAM – Agawam High School's SAVE Club and National Honor Society, along with Agawam's Zero Waste Club, are hosting their 3rd annual Kids' Used Clothing Exchange. This event was created to normalize the reuse of clothing that remains in good condition.

Clean, gently used, kids' clothing will be collected at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., on Tuesday April 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. All types of clothing from infant through teen styles, are desired. No footwear, including shoes, boots or sneakers will be accepted. All donations will be prescreened before donors leave.

General, free, public shopping of this clothing will take place outdoors on Saturday, April 10, by appointment only, at the Agawam Public Library Parking Lot from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date for the free shopping is Saturday, April 17.

Shoppers are asked to bring reusable shopping bags, as this is a zero-waste event. Any clothing that remains will be donated to local charities.

To make an appointment to free shop for clothing, visit AgawamLibrary.org under Events & Activities and register, or call 413-789-1550. For more information, email AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com

Feline Friends benefits from bag fundraiser

AGAWAM – The Stop and Shop Community Bag Program, which launched in May 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary was selected as the April 2021 beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the Stop and Shop located at 57 Main Street, Westfield. Feline Friends Inc. will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at that location during April, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary is a non-profit based in Feeding Hills. Learn more about Feline Friends Inc. by visiting www.felinefriendsinc.org. For more information about the Community Bag Program, go to: stopandshop.bags4mycause.com.

Grange holding indoor tag sale

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills, will hold an indoor Tag Sale on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grange members will be selling their treasures. The sale will benefit the building fund. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

checking for roots in about a month.

Another plant that faced true liberation a month ago was an amaryllis that I received in a fancy clear container. The bulb was waxed, or maybe even covered in some kind of plastic. Hard to tell. All you had to do was put it on the shelf, no potting up required. Something did not set well with me about this fancy new modus...they want you to throw it away afterwards! But I kept my comment to myself, thanked the person who gave it to me and watched as it bloomed, nicely, but on a shorter stem than what I am used to. Once the flowers had passed it looked as though another stem wanted to put out flower buds, but it just sort of sat there. I decided I would operate, gently peeling the wax off the bulb. After planting in potting soil the amaryllis did

bloom and has since put out healthy white roots this last month. Next it will grow a healthy crop of foliage then go dormant before blooming again next fall/winter.

It was a lot of fun to repot and experiment with my "houseplants." Maybe I've had some success because not all of them were intentioned for the house all along. Or maybe my luck is changing!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



The King David Jazz Trio will bring an evening of old time and Gypsy jazz to the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series on Friday, April 2 with a performance to be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam's and Southwick's public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Applause Series presents program of old time and gypsy jazz

AGAWAM – The virtual presentation of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series' seventeenth season continues on Friday, April 2 when The King David Jazz Trio performs a mix of old time and Gypsy jazz in the style of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappeli, with Klezmer and other ethnic flavors, including Irish, Italian, Spanish, and American Standards. Recorded at the Darcy B. Davis Jr. Bandshell at Agawam's School Street Park in September, the performance will be presented on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick's TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch Channel 15" button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

The King David Jazz Trio consists of Dave Giardina on guitar and vocals, Chris Payne on violin, and Kris Jensen on saxophone. Giardina studied music at the Longy School, and in classes with John Williams, Manuel Barrueco, Ben Verdery, Paco Peña, Oscar Ghiglia, and Sal Salvador. He has performed extensively throughout the Northeast and has been featured with the Hartford Symphony and Holyoke Symphony. As a recording session musician and performer, Payne has worked with artists such as John Martin, Tim Garland, and John Paul Jones, performing at venues such as The Barbican, and Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club. He has played virtually every genre of music, incorporating these into his own unique style. Jensen is a sax and flute player of renown from Binghamton, New York, and a graduate of the Hartt School under Jackie McLean. He has toured with Dicky Betts of the Allman

Brothers and graced the biggest stages of the northeast with major jazz orchestras.

Production sponsors for the King David Jazz Trio are the Agawam Special Police and Chris & Sue Catjakis. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during this time of social distancing, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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Obituary

Anthony Liquori

Anthony Peter Liquori (84) of Southwick and Tolland, formerly of Agawam, passed away peacefully in his home on March 21, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of 60 years to Irene (Banel) Liquori. Anthony - fondly known by his friends and family as "Ant'ny", "Chickee", and "Tony" - was born in Springfield on January 26, 1937, son to the late Fiore and Florence Rose (Bonavito) Liquori. He was predeceased by his siblings John Liquori, Mamie (Liquori) Nostin, and Thomas Liquori.

Anthony graduated Agawam High School in 1954 and attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He served in the Army National Guard for 6 years; he was honorably discharged in 1962. Anthony was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church. In his early years, he worked for the town of Longmeadow as a surveyor and for Al Nichols Surveying in Agawam. Using those surveying skills, he was part of the team that developed the layout, routing, and design of the Deerfield section of I-91. Anthony was a prolific property developer. His first development was Willow Brook Estates off of Cooper Street, established with his two brothers and sister. He helped develop Overlook Ridge Estates in Suffield; and several properties in Feeding Hills with his two brothers, John and Tom; Hawk's Nest and Evergreen in Westfield; and a section on City View and Hillside in Westfield. He built



several homes in Woodcliff in Eastwood and developed Westbridge Manor Apartments in Westfield. He was the owner/developer of Pine Knoll Estates in Southwick. He was a real estate owner/broker for New Horizons Real Estate in Westfield for over 30 years. Anthony served as a director on the Board for Driftwood Shores in Tolland, MA. He was appointed Chairman of the Conservation Commission on May

5, 1980. In the early 80's he was a member of the Mawaga Club, where he would take his sons fishing. Many summers were spent with the Hillios Family enjoying the beautiful beaches of Falmouth on Cape Cod. For the last 40 years, summers were mostly spent on Otis Reservoir with his wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family and friends enjoying the lake - kayaking, water skiing, birdwatching, fishing, and boating. Many

happy memories were made over the past 28 years on Martha's Vineyard, where Anthony rented a home for his family and grandchildren, so they could enjoy the amenities of this beautiful island - fishing, beaching, biking, enjoying sunsets, and family time. Every December, he would take his family to Freeport, Maine for a long weekend, staying at the Harraseeket Inn. Anthony spent countless winters skiing with the Slate Family at Mount Snow and traveled with them and family to Vail, Beaver Creek, and Breckenridge. Anthony and his wife Irene took many trips to Europe skiing - St. Moritz, Zermatt, Mt. Blanc, Chamonix, Bormio, and the Dolomites. He spent many weekends throughout

the year with his brothers, nephews, and sons hunting in Vermont at his friend Joey's home. He enjoyed fishing, pheasant hunting, duck hunting, and bow hunting in Vermont. He also went salmon fishing in Alaska and the Miramichi River in Nova Scotia. Anthony enjoyed hiking and biking throughout New England. He loved all things outdoors and visited many national parks across the United States. One of his passions was playing softball and coaching baseball at Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills. For over fifty years, Anthony spent his mornings having breakfast at Memo's Coffee Shop enjoying the company of his brothers, brother-in-laws, and friends. He often stopped at McDonald's on Wednesdays to have a cup of coffee with his cousins Ed and Dickie. Once a month he got together with his 1954 classmates and enjoyed spending time with them, especially with Pudgy, his life-long friend. He looked forward to conversations with Joe Mendes, another life-long friend.

Anthony will be missed by his beloved wife Irene, his three loving children, Christine (Liquori) Kuras and her husband Joseph Kuras of Southwick, Anthony Liquori and his husband Steven Maler of Boston and Provincetown, Michael Liquori and his partner Rachel Kurtz of Agawam; his two adored grandchildren, Michael Anthony Grenier and his fiancée Alexandra Ricco of West Springfield and Lauren Irene Grenier of Boston; his brother-in-law Frank Nostin of Agawam and Boca Raton, Florida and his devoted brother-in-law Victor Banel of Westfield; Josephine (Banel) Hillios of Chicopee; and many adoring nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family and friends. The Liquori family wishes to thank Antho-

ny's caregivers Shawkat Salimov and Lasha Kamkamidze of EuroCare and his entire medical team at Baystate Health, including Baystate Home Health and Baystate Hospice for their exceptional care. They'd also like to thank Roopashree Muralidhar, MD and Michael Siegenthaler, MD, Candice for her pharmaceutical expertise, as well as RAM Ambulance. They are especially grateful to his nephew Joseph Liquori, his niece Tara (Hillios) Paquette, Victor Banel, Josephine Hillios and Pudgy Phillips for their unwavering support. A special thank you goes out to his friends and family for all the visits, telephone calls, FaceTime chats, texts and especially for their friendship

and prayers. Calling hours for Anthony will be held Wednesday, March 24, 2021, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Colonial Forastiere Family Funeral Home, 985 Main St., Agawam. Funeral services will begin at 8:45a.m. on Thursday March 25, 2021 from the funeral home. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will take place at 10:00 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. Due to the recent Covid 19 restrictions, burial will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (<https://www.asPCA.org> or by mail: ASPCA, PO Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090-6929) or the Skip Joyce Endowed Fund for Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy Research at Mass General (<https://tinyurl.com/Anthony-Liquori-Memorial-Fund> or by mail: Massachusetts General Hospital, Development Office, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114). www.forastierefuneralhome.com

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Volcanic crater
- 5. Long times
- 10. Swedish rock group
- 14. Having the means to do something
- 15. Rods or spindles
- 16. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 17. Missing soldiers
- 18. Measuring instrument
- 19. All of the components considered individually
- 20. Play "___ Irish Rose"
- 22. Gene
- 23. Barrels
- 24. London-based soccer team
- 27. Feline
- 30. Breed of sheep
- 31. Body part
- 32. Doctors' group
- 35. One who follows the rules
- 37. Cigarette residue

- 38. Ancient Greek sophist
- 39. Polish yeast cakes
- 40. Promotional materials
- 41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 42. Completed perfectly
- 43. Photo
- 44. A peninsula in SW Asia
- 45. The common gibbon
- 46. Disfigure
- 47. Ribonucleic acid
- 48. Japanese honorific
- 49. Pieces of music
- 52. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Having ten
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Humble request for help
- 61. Eating houses
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Cain and ___
- 65. Measure the depth
- 66. U. of Miami's mascot
- 67. Political outsiders
- 68. Greek sorceress
- 69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mother
- 2. Jewish calendar month
- 3. Jai __, sport
- 4. Establish again
- 5. Swiss river
- 6. Racetrack wager
- 7. ___ but goodie
- 8. Closeness
- 9. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 10. At right angles to a ship's length
- 11. Women's undergarments
- 12. Mountain stream
- 13. Expresses pleasure
- 21. Painful places on the body
- 23. Automobile
- 25. Scandinavian god of battle
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. Secret political clique
- 28. Yields manila hemp
- 29. River in central Italy
- 32. Brain injury science acronym

- 33. Mental illness
- 34. A person from Asia
- 36. Father
- 37. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style
- 40. Large terrier
- 41. Hillsides
- 43. Golf score
- 44. Not or
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Closes tightly
- 50. Saudi Arabian desert
- 51. Famed vaccine developer
- 52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- 53. Actress Jessica
- 54. Pay attention to
- 57. Beloved big screen pig
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Cost per mille
- 62. Helps little firms



State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, testifies regarding the bond bill for the Holyoke Soldiers Home. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Velis testifies on urgency for Holyoke Soldiers' Home bond bill

BOSTON – On Tuesday the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight held a hearing to discuss H.64, An Act financing reconstruction of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. This bill provides \$400 million in capital authorization to rebuild the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, a project that Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) called "critical."

"For too long the facility has been overlooked and left underfunded. After decades of inattention, the Home has surpassed the ability to be renovated and must be rebuilt," said Senator Velis, who represents the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and is a Veteran himself. "Those who serve put their lives on the line for the rest of us back home. They have taken care of us and now we must take care of them."

The project proposal contains 223-234 beds and includes, primarily private rooms, with communal areas for visitation, meals and other services. This layout follows the Patient-Centered Care and Small-Home care models recommended in reports from MIT and UMass that were commissioned by the state.

"I think the PCC, the Patient-Centered Care, is the way going forward. That is what we are talking about here and that is what this building will be. This is the only way that we can take care of what is going to be our next generation and current generation of Veterans," said Senator Velis during his testimony.

Senator Velis noted that the next generation of Veterans will face different challenges than those at the Home today.

"Less than one half of one percent our Country's population serves today, and this future Home is going to serve generations that have been an all volunteer force with multiple combat deployments," said Senator Velis, who is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "We are going to have more Veterans returning with complex medical, social, and psychological challenges than ever before."

The state is currently working to meet an Aug. 1 deadline for the federal Veterans Administration's State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. If approved, the Commonwealth would receive reimbursement for 65% of the \$400 million.

Several officials who testified, including National Guard Adjutant General Gary Keefe and Department of Veteran's Services Secretary Cheryl Poppe, noted that there is significant federal support for the project.

In order to meet the grant application deadline, the State's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) must complete its design of the project, a process that is initiated once the bond bill is enacted.

"Every day this bill is not passed, is another day that DCAMM cannot work on the design," said Senator Velis. "It is imperative that this bill is passed by April 1 to ensure that DCAMM has enough time for the design development stage."

Several individuals who testified noted that this project has been a long time coming. "It's Holyoke's time, It's Holyoke's turn." stated DVS Secretary Poppe.

Turley Publications wants to hear from you

REGION – Everyone uses different tools to get the news. At Turley Publications, we strive to reach all our readers. In that effort, we have created an online survey to learn about how our readers get their news. Please complete this survey to educate us on how we can best reach you, the reader. The 10-question survey takes about two minutes to complete online. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>. Thank you.

Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

Crafters needed for St. John's first-ever outdoor fair

AGAWAM – St. John the Evangelist Church is excited to host its first-ever Outdoor Craft Fair, Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 833 Main Street, Agawam. Crafters are welcome to request an application by contacting Andreana Perkins, 413.786.8105, or sje.information@gmail.com. A rain date is set for May 8.

There is a \$35 non-refundable fee, and a request for one craft item to be donated to the Raffle Tent (value of \$20).

Crafters will have access to a designated 10 x 10 outdoor space, which will include a six-foot table and chair. There are limited number of spaces with electricity that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Interested crafters can contact Andreana Perkins at 413.786-8105, or sje.information@gmail.com.

Clothing collection goes to end of the month

AGAWAM – Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills has been collecting donations of white socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and gently used and washed since January. We have so far made five truck loads to the South Congregational Church in Springfield where the donations are sorted and made available to those in need. Thanks to your enormous generosity we have been able to fill their needs. The donations for the remainder of the month will be going to the Springfield Rescue Mission. The drive will continue through the end of March 2021. If you have any questions, please call our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 786.8200 ext. 3.

HCC ranked among best community colleges in U.S.

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College ranks among the best community colleges in the U.S. for 2021, according to AcademicInfluence.com, a technology-driven education evaluation group.

HCC was listed at number 20 out of 839 community colleges nationwide.

In particular, HCC was noted for the strength of its academic programs in criminal justice, nursing, computer science, business, education and engineering.

"In rankings on other sites, students typically see only the largest community colleges. We believe we take a smarter and more comprehensive approach," said Jed Macosko, academic director of AcademicInfluence.com and professor of physics at Wake Forest University.

Criteria for the schools in this ranking include a minimum of 1,000 enrolled students, full accreditation, and exclusively two-year (or associate) degree programs.

"We look at how influential the school's faculty is and then factor in the student body size. We call this metric 'Concentrated Influence.' Those community colleges with a strong faculty but comparatively fewer students, schools that might otherwise get lost in the shadows of their larger competitors, now have an opportunity to shine," said Macosko. "Because students often choose to attend a school nearby, this kind of illumination provides a truer view of how influential their neighborhood community college may actually be, regardless of its size."

AcademicInfluence.com is part of the EducationAccess group, a family of sites dedicated to lifelong learning and personal growth.

The full list of AcademicInfluence.com's Top 50 Rankings of Community College can be viewed at academicinfluence.com/articles



HCC theater professor Tim Cochran, right, directs a fight sequence with alumni actor Mike Pray for the HCC production of "Fatal Fisticuffs," as streaming coach and HCC alumnus Cory Missildine, left, records the action against a green screen. SUBMITTED PHOTO

HCC virtual theater production honored for innovation

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Theater Department's fall 2020 production, a live-streamed virtual play called "Fatal Fisticuffs," won two awards at this year's Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

The original work, written by HCC alumnus Tom Roche '16 of Holyoke, was recognized with a merit award for "Innovation in Digital Theater." HCC student Nanette Mendieta of Holyoke won an award for excellence in stage management.

The awards were announced at the end of the KCACTF Region I festival, which was held virtually this year Jan. 25-31.

"Fatal Fisticuffs" was originally conceived as a traditional stage production that was meant also to be streamed over the internet and include real-time interactions with a virtual audience. But the COVID-19 pandemic forced the play off stage and completely into the digital realm.

"We were all trying to overcome the obstacles that were placed in front of us as we attempted to tell a story in a virtual world," said director and HCC theater professor Tim Cochran. "We wanted to experiment and push our technical abilities as far as we could. Being recognized on a regional level is important because it provides affirmation that our work is respected by other colleges and it recognizes our merit as a program of excellence and innovation. This play was being produced at an incredibly difficult time for all of us and it became a light in the darkness for a lot of people."

KCACTF Region I includes colleges and universities in northern New York and all six New England states. Awards are based on the recommendations of respondents, who – usually – travel around the country to view college theater productions and offer critiques.

In the case of "Fatal Fisticuffs," the production was performed live four times over three days in November 2020. During the show, 13 student- and alumni-actors performed in front of green screens in their homes with the live action patched together remotely with fight scenes pre-recorded on the stage of HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater.

Based on their performances in "Fatal Fisticuffs," student-actors Lauren Bailey, Miguel Perez and Brandon Rodriguez were also selected to perform in an acting competition during the festival.

"I think the students' performances speak to their ded-

ication, talent, and commitment," said Kim Hicks, HCC dean of Arts & Humanities. "The same applies to our Theater faculty, who work collaboratively with students to create the fall and spring theater productions each year. Everyone involved in these shows puts in an incredible amount of work, including nights and weekends, and the work is evident in what we see on the stage and, now also, on the screen."

The production featured a number of HCC theater alumni in key positions: Cory Missildine '13, a professional gamer and owner of the Easthampton-based livestreaming company Missildine Online, served as streaming coach; Mike Pray '08, a member of Tieline Theater, a Massachusetts theater collaborative, served as fight choreographer; and Roche, an award-winning playwright, wrote - and rewrote - the script.

The characters in Roche's play inhabit a bleak, degraded world where flowers no longer grow. They live alone in boxes, eat artificial food from plastic tubes, and may venture out once a year during an event known as The Opening. The rest of the time, their interactions are virtual, coming in the form of holograms, online chats and videogames. In the play "Fatal Fisticuffs" is a Mortal Combat-style eSports competition that provides both a literal and metaphorical battlefield for the main character, Clayton Day, as portrayed by Miguel Perez.

"Tom worked on the script for a full year before learning that he needed to pivot and adapt the entire story into a virtual platform," said Cochran. "This was an incredibly difficult undertaking but Tom stepped up to the challenge. All told, he wrote more than 20 different versions of the script. His commitment to crafting a script that would hold together and tell a compelling story that was about our current plight is what put everything in motion for us."

In the past nine years, the HCC Theater Department has won 12 KCACTF awards for individual acting, ensemble acting, dedication to a script, stage managing, and best original music, among others.

This spring, the HCC Theater Department will present another virtual production, "In These Times," a dramatic collection of original stories from the HCC community about life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The show, directed by HCC theater professor Pat Sandoval, will be performed online April 14-17.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Brownies fall in opener



Elijah Torres takes off on a run for the Brownies.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School football team finally took the turf after a long layoff, falling to visiting Longmeadow 30-14. The game was a low-scoring affair early on with Longmeadow up a touchdown at halftime. The offense improved in the second half, but Longmeadow remained in control. It was Agawam's first game since losing to West Springfield on Thanksgiving in 2019. Agawam faces Amherst at home on Friday, March 26 at 4:30 p.m.



Vincent Wallace attempts to break up a pass play.



Matthew Cleavall punts the ball away for Agawam.



Griffin Levesque tries to head for the side on a run. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

RACING

Purse structure announced for 2021 season

WATERBURY, VT and NAPLES, ME -- American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) officials have announced the purse structure for the five weekly divisions set for competition at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in 2021.

A total of nearly \$24,000 in posted awards have been set to be distributed to the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Limited Sportsman, and Mini Stocks at each event. All five divisions will compete as part of the six-race oval track event schedule at Thompson, which begins with the annual Ice-breaker on April 10 and 11. The schedule also includes four Wednesday night races in the summer (June 16, July 7, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15) and the Sunoco World Series (Oct. 8 to 10).



Information has been released for racing purses for the 2021 season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

FOOTBALL

Valley Wheel Baseball seeking new talent for 2021 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The regular season is just a month away and the members of the Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League are excited to be playing baseball again.

Last year, the season was cancelled once parks were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An attempt was made by commissioner Jim Nason to hold a short season once modified rules for activity were allowed, but there was not enough interest to keep the league operating.

Now, the league is gearing for a full season, but between circumstances changing during the pandemic and the modifications currently in place for sports The league is definitely in need of more baseball talent.

Nason is hoping “quarantine fatigue” and the need to get outdoors and get active will draw new players to tryouts when they start next weekend.

Tryouts for the league will take place Saturday, April 3, and the next two Sundays, April 11 and 18.

There are normally six teams in the league and the hope is to continue to have that tradition as players begin to make their way out to the fields The normal Valley Wheel season is 15 games beginning April 25 this year and going until the end of July. The league plays nine-inning games, allowing all participants an opportunity to get plenty of at-bats and lots of time in the field.

The top four teams in the league make the playoffs and the semifinals and finals are held in the first two weeks of August. The schedule also features a couple of weeknights games and a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday game.

There are still modified rules for adult baseball under the Office of Energy and Environ-



Valley Wheel Baseball is ready to get started again. Tryouts were held last summer before the season ultimately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. FILE PHOTO

Sports

BASEBALL ■ from page 8

mental Affairs, which requires mask-wearing, social distancing when possible, and no spitting among the habit baseball players are not allowed to engage in. While the game play is largely the same, the mask-wearing rule was one that was the subject of controversy last summer and ultimately led to the cancellation of the shortened season.

With vaccinations in Massachusetts clearing one million people and the state entering Phase 4 of the re-opening plan earlier this week, Nason is hopeful the restrictions will ease as the season goes on, especially as it relates to gathering.

Comradery is one of the staples of the league, which has usually included tailgating after games. That is a practice that will also have to be on hold until restrictions lift.

For more information on getting involved in adult baseball, go to www.valley-wheelbaseball.com. To play in the league, you must be 28-years-old before June 1. In order to participate in the league as a pitcher, you must be 30-years-old before June 1. Players can participate in at least one of the three tryouts dates, usually held at Blunt Park, and then a draft is held prior to the start of the season.



Tryouts are set to begin on April 3. FILE PHOTO

RACING ■ from page 8

“When Tom (Mayberry) and I agreed to take on this role at Thompson, one of our priorities was posting a fair purse for all divisions,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “I raced for 20+ years, and I experienced firsthand the value of an extra dollar. We’ve put together a competitive structure that rewards everyone who shows up and will help teams get their cars to the track.”

The roar of the Sunoco Modifieds will return to the high-banks with drivers chasing a \$1,500 winning prize for their 30-lap feature races. With \$900 on the line for second, \$600 for third and \$200 to start each race, the Sunoco Modified purse itself rises over \$8,500. Some of the top names in local Modified racing are expected to compete, including Keith Rocco, who looks to continue his dominance of the competitive class on Thompson’s 0.625-mile oval. Other names expected for the opener include Troy Talman, a former Thompson winner.

The Late Models, which will again follow ACT Tour rules — including the addition of the new Hoosier tire — will chase \$1,200 to win. As part of a purse better than \$7,000 throughout the field, Late Model drivers will open the season with a 40-lap special at the Icebreaker. They will continue to thrill Thompson fans with some of the top competitors from across New England. Names like Woody Pitkat, who swept both races in 2020, along with Nick Johnson, defending ACT Tour Rookie of the Year Derek Gluchacki and more will be in competition.

The Limited Sportsman are set to return with a purse over \$3,000 of their own and \$350 on the line to win. Known as one of the most exciting divisions at Thompson

each year, the Limited Sportsman keep fans on the edge of their seat with two, and often three-wide action throughout the field.

Early entries for the season include former Thompson champions Kyle Gero and Larry Barnett, along with former Seekonk Speedway Sportsman champion Corey Fanning. At the Icebreaker, Limited Sportsman drivers may also take the opportunity to compete in a 8-Cylinder Open Street Stock open on Saturday, which pays \$1,000 to win.

Rising over \$3,000, the SK Light Modified purse includes another \$350 to win, with \$250 for second and a strong distribution of funds throughout the field. As a division that puts some of the youth of Modified racing and veterans together, it’s expected to be another stout year.

The Mini Stock thunder will return to Thompson with feature races set for \$200 to win and over \$1,600 in presented awards. Early entries for the season include Thompson veterans Russ Barboza, Tommy Silva and former division champion Steve Michalski.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park opens its 82nd season of oval track racing with the Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The 10-division card includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series, the PASS Super Late Models, and five Thompson weekly divisions. The 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge round out the card. An optional Test N’ Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

College conference moves forward with spring competition

WESTFIELD – The eight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents announced today that they have approved a plan to have competition for the spring sports of baseball, men’s golf, women’s lacrosse, softball and men’s and women’s outdoor track and field. The presidents have also approved the continuation of practice for fall and winter MASCAC teams subject to health and safety, testing and tracing protocols in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“The MASCAC continues to meet regularly with the presidents, athletic directors, athletic trainers and other essential staff as we bring our student-athletes back to the playing field, safely, while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines,” said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. “It is our intention to have these athletic events as long as the conditions allow us to move forward safely. The MASCAC office and eight MASCAC Presidents will be monitoring practices and competition to ensure the continued health and safety of our student-athletes and staff.”

It will remain the decision of each member institution to determine if they can safely participate in intercollegiate athletics this spring and in which sports they will permit competition. These decisions will be made in consultation with campus health professionals and the MASCAC Commissioner.

The presidents have approved a conference schedule where the institutions will play the same school each week in baseball, softball and women’s lacrosse. In addition, the membership has approved a men’s golf and outdoor track and field championship. Additionally, the presidents have authorized institutions to schedule non-conference contests, provided all non-conference teams follow prescribed MASCAC health and safety guidance and protocols. Insti-

tutions will not be traveling to compete against teams out of state.

As the MASCAC teams continue to participate in athletic activities, it is the continued responsibility of all student-athletes and staff to stay diligent in their safety efforts on and off the field of play. Individual member institutions reserve the right to halt competition if the health of the campus community is put at risk. In the event of an increase of COVID-related cases on any of our campuses, the schedules may be adjusted, which might include stoppage of play.

“The presidents are excited to move forward with plans for spring sports competition,” said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. “As we plan for spring sports competition, we will continue to fine-tune protocols to ensure the safety of student-athletes, coaches, staff and the campus communities,” said President Birge.

Consistent with state restrictions on gathering limits, spectators will not be permitted at MASCAC contests at this time. This policy may be revisited for outdoor sports if conditions improve and subject to state and local health authorities’ guidance. For the enjoyment of family, friends and fans of our student-athletes, the MASCAC will continue to livestream contests on MASCAC.tv.

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its’ 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players who are

not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league’s first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league’s website.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quiltthunter@comcast.net.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.western-massrelics.org>.

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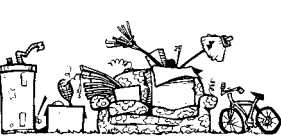
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0479GD
In the matter of:
Logan J Henry
Of: Agawam, MA
Respondent
Alleged Incapacitated Person

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Matthew Henry of Agawam, MA
Colleen Henry of Agawam, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging that **Logan J Henry** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Matthew Henry** of Agawam, MA

Colleen Henry of Agawam, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/16/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 12, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/25/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Probate and Family Court
HAMPDEN ss
Docket No. HD19P2229PM

To all persons interested in the estate of **Alice A. MacDonald** otherwise **Alice A. McCarthy** of Agawam in said County, person under conservatorship single

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale certain real estate of said **Alice A. MacDonald** otherwise **Alice A. McCarthy** for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 20th day of April 2021, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this sixteenth day of March 2021.

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register

It is ordered that notice of said proceeding be given by delivering or mailing by registered or certified mail a copy of the foregoing citation to all persons interested fourteen days at least before said return day and, if service be made by registered or certified mail, unless it shall appear that all persons interested have received actual notice, by publishing a copy thereof once in The Agawam Advertiser a newspaper published in Agawam the last publication to be seven days at least before said return day' and it is further ordered that notice thereof be given to the Department of Mental Health and the United States Veterans Administration and to the Board of Public Welfare of by delivering or mailing by registered or certified mail a copy thereof to them fourteen days at least before said return day.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this 16th day of March 2021.

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register

03/25/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES | page 12

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

TAX TIME



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COVID-19 testing at HCC extended through June



The COVID-19 test site at Holyoke Community College will continue to offer drive-thru testing until the end of June. SUBMITTED PHOTO

HOLYOKE — Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot

H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0514EA
Estate of:
Eric P Decoteau
Date of Death: 12/31/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ronald P Decoteau** of East Longmeadow, MA and **Cheryl A Wiblyi** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Ronald P Decoteau** of East Longmeadow, MA and **Cheryl A Wiblyi** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/14/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appear-

ance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 17, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/25/2021

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
Agawam:
North Agawam Infrastructure Planning Project (NAIPP)

The Town of Agawam has been awarded funds from the FY 2019 Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Program. Agawam wishes to receive proposals from profession-

al engineering firms who will facilitate the proposed NAIPP under the direction of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the Agawam Planning and Community Development Department, who will report to the Agawam Mayor. The consultant will ultimately be responsible for inspecting the area, conducting necessary survey work, hold public meetings, evaluate all basic infrastructure systems (streets, sidewalks, drainage, water, and sewer), develop base plans and prepare a Master Plan for proposed infrastructure improvements.

A more detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, from 9 AM to 5 PM. To request an electronic copy of the RFP, please email both Sue Ortiz (sortiz@pvpc.org) and Ted Harvey (tharvey@pvpc.org). The RFP will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below in digital format. The Town of Agawam reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so. Agawam’s Chief Procurement Officer and the Mayor will be the awarding and contracting authority.

Completed proposals are to be submitted no later than 3:00 PM, April 14, 2021 at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street – 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104-3419.
03/25/2021

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